

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My name is Robert Goheen and I am writing to you regarding your reconsideration of the rules that require telephone companies to provide ISPs access to the public switched phone network. Removal of these requirements would be a grave mistake.

I depend on my local Internet Service Provider, Speakeasy.net and Covad, to give me access to Internet services, options, and quality not available from my local telephone carrier. In fact, I could pay less for my Internet access if I used my local telephone company, Qwest, rather than Covad. However, I have found that not only does Qwest currently not offer all of the features I expect from Internet access, but I have also found that Qwest has poor service, below average quality and does not treat its customers with proper respect. Additionally, I have evidence that convinces me that the practices of local phone companies have made it much more difficult for Covad and similar companies to provide a broadband Internet connectivity at the same price level as the phone companies. If you choose to remove my ISP's access to the public phone network, I will no longer be able to receive the level of service I have come to enjoy and expect for Internet access.

I sincerely hope that you think very carefully what you are considering. Consumers all across America are depending on you to make the right decision. The right decision is to maintain and grow the level of competition in the Internet marketplace. The local phone companies have continued to leverage their monopoly situations to limit competition, and this decision would only allow them to prevent other competitors from delivering service to our homes.

Commissioners, I implore you to continue to protect the ISPs' access to the public telephone networks, thereby protecting the rights of millions of consumers like me.

Sincerely,

Robert Goheen
999 Third Ave
Seattle, WA 98101